THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Recently, Schedule 'K' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 has been amended to provide exemption facilitating sale of 49 commonly used homoeopathic and bio-chemic tissue medicines in allopathic pharmacy also. This will provide wider outlet for sale of homoeopathic medicine.

(c) Good Manufacturing Practices in Homoeopathy are governed by Schedule M-1 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. State Licensing Authorities are required to ensure compliance of Good Manufacturing Practices.

NAM Health Ministers' Conference in Johannesburg

3987. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India suggested in the NAM Health Ministers' Conference in Johannesburg that developing countries should give each other legal and administrative support to produce and market drugs to each other at reduced prices;

(b) if so, the response of the other countries thereto;

(c) what are the details of steps taken or proposed by Government for producing essential drugs at reduced prices in the country; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) During the NAM Health Ministers' Conference in Johannesburg on 26-27 March, 2001, there was general consensus that developing countries should have access to essential medicines at an affordable cost and that cooperation among developing countries for this purpose was of great relevance.

(c) and (d) The Drug Prices Control Orders are issued by the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to implement the Policy in so far as price controls are concerned.

The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed

towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices. The domestic drugs and pharmaceutical industry needs support in order to meet the challenges and to avail of the opportunities arising out of liberalization of our economy and the impending advent of the product patent regime. Government has been considering measures to lessen the rigours of the present price control mechanism, where they have become counter productive. Towards this end, Government has decided that the span of price control will be reduced substantially.

Import of Banned Drugs by Multinationals

3988. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether multinationals are importing banned drugs at an exorbitant price which are detrimental to the health of people in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this is being done with the consent of DG Health; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Products which are detrimental to health are prohibited to be manufactured or imported into the country in terms of the provisions of Section 10A and 26 A of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and rules. Hence they are not allowed to be imported into the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Overcharging by Themis

3989. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Gujarat FDCA seeks Rs.40 lakh due from Themis for overcharging Tricox", which appeared in Pharmabiz dated 4th January, 2001; and